

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

State Society Meeting, April 1916, Fresno!! Fresno!! Fresno!!—April 18, 19, 20; remember the dates; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

See elsewhere in this number of the *Journal* for the preliminary program of the scientific sessions.

There will be an interesting discussion of the insurance situation from a number of angles, and probably the discussion will be profitable to all. . . .

Do not fail to attend this meeting. Note the dates right now—April 18, 19, 20. Fresno. Must go. Headquarters hotel is the Hotel Fresno, and all the sessions will be held in that hotel.

The roads will be in fine shape, and those who like motoring*—and who does not?—will enjoy their trip, as well as their visit to this one of our most progressive of the many valley towns.

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Your Office.—Some questions that were casually asked a short time ago have suggested a note from time to time on little things connected with the office of the State Society and its methods of doing business. There are three large steel safes in the office; not burglar-proof, but reasonably fire-proof; that is, any ordinary fire in the rooms or the building would not attack them seriously. Two of them are quite full and the other is about half-full—of records. All the reports of county society membership since the Fire [1906] are bound and put away in these safes. All correspondence relating to suits for damages for alleged malpractice, or threats, or rumors of threats, are also bound and filed away. All documents in every such case when it is finally terminated, are kept and filed; these files are not yet complete, as many documents are still in the offices of our attorneys; but they will all be duly filed in time. What for? So that we may at any time have at hand all the information possible about any physician who has been or is a member. . . .

From an Original Article on "Case Recording," by H. D'Arcy Power, M. D., San Francisco.—Presumably, the majority of people hold the Ten Commandments in respect, and at least profess an attempt to adhere to them. The same is true of case recording, but it is much to be feared that in both cases profession takes the place of compliance. One of our prominent statesmen has been accused of rediscovering the Ten Commandments and of being a distributor of platitudinous aphorisms. I might be accused of something similar in the subject matter of my paper tonight, as it is something over eighteen years ago [1898] when I first called the attention of the profession in California to the importance of the matter, and have repeatedly dwelt upon it since. But if one may judge from the records of the average office, and from the experience which occasionally crops up in court evidence, there is still ample need for hammering away until the teaching sticks. The matter has been particularly impressed upon me in the last few months, because of the new call on members of the medical profession to be prepared at all times to

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

* Advice of twenty-five years ago, regarding Fresno, applies with equal force to Del Monte, May 5-8, 1941.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

News

"Governor Culbert L. Olson has named Dr. Norman F. Sprague, Los Angeles osteopathic physician and surgeon, to the California State Board of Health." (*Hollywood Citizen*, January 28, 1941.)

"The Superior Court was asked today to define the boundaries of medical services which 'drugless practitioners' can render legally. The suit was directed by Wayne S. Poston, Rosemead practitioner, against the State Board of Medical Examiners and Sterling Brooks, special board agent, for the purpose of clearing up 'confusion existing as to the rights of drugless practitioners licensed by the board.' Poston, who said he was a licensed practitioner with a degree from the state-recognized 'Los Angeles College of Drugless Physicians,' alleged that Brooks visited his office last August 13, and threw havoc into his routine because of services he was told he could not render. Among those were, he said: Use of antiseptics, disinfectants or germicides in practice; use of pituitrin or ergot in obstetrical cases, even in emergencies; make blood tests for diagnostic purposes; use of term 'physical medicine' in his practice, or on professional cards, even though his doctor's degree from the licensed local college gave him the title.

"All of this, Poston said, had placed him in the position of discontinuing his practice, or living in constant fear of criminal prosecution, if the privileges of his profession were not defined by court. . . ." (*Hollywood Citizen-News*, February 5, 1941.)

Among other bills signed by Governor Olson February 4, 1941, was Assembly Bill 303 (Cronin), which exempts from annual tax all licentiates who are full-time medical officers in the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine or Public Health Service. The bill is now recorded as Chapter 21 of the Statutes of 1941.

"If there's a lower standard of intelligence in the jury box, the fault belongs to the legal profession, Federal Judge Merrill E. Otis believes. In a talk on the subject here Judge Otis laid the blame particularly upon lawyers who are members of legislatures for tolerating the present standard of intelligence for jury service. Remarking that there has been a 100-year battle on one hundred fronts between those who want intelligence in the jury box and those who don't, the judge said:

"In this country exemption has been granted to almost every class of citizens who might be presumed to be unusually intelligent. Almost all highly educated men are exempt. They are lawyers, doctors, the clergy, teachers and members of other learned professions. Educated men are exempted, not because they asked it or desired it, but because some lawyers in legislatures have not desired educated men as jurors."

"Judge Otis said he had been on the federal bench for sixteen years and had been a member of the Bar for thirty years, but he wouldn't pull his punches when he touched on the legal profession's responsibility for low-grade juries. There are men who are members of the Bar, the greatest of all professions, I think, who want jelly-fish jurors, putty

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.